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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

RAHLL, JERRY T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2874

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statements (IDS's) submitted on October 6, 2006 and November 15, 2006 are compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Drawings

2. A new replacement drawing sheet was received on October 6, 2006. These drawings are accepted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-4, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being inherently anticipated by US Patent Application No. 2002/0167013 to Iwasaki et al.

5. Regarding Claim 1, Iwasaki et al. describes a photonic circuit board (see Figure 6) with a two-dimensional optical transmission medium (602), a plurality of I/O devices (associated with 603, see paragraph 0166), a reconfigurable integrated circuit (603) connected to the plurality of I/O devices, a group of wires (604) connected to the reconfigurable integrated circuit. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. In re Hutchinson, 69 USPQ 138. While Iwasaki

Art Unit: 2874

et al. does not specifically describe a mediating device for causing the integrated circuit to change the mode of connection between the I/O devices, such a mediating device is inherent to the Iwasaki et al. device (as either a separate component or integrated with the described components) in order for the described signals to be transmitted over electric wires or the optical wiring as described (see paragraph 0168).

6. Regarding Claim 4, Iwasaki et al. describes the number of optical I/O devices smaller than the number of electronic devices to be connected (see Figure 6 where 6 optical outputs are shown and 7 electrical devices are shown).

7. Regarding Claim 3, while Iwasaki et al. does not specifically describe the circuit formed by a field programmable gate array, the logic circuit described by Iwasaki et al. (see paragraphs 0168-0169) would inherently be such a field programmable gate array.

8. Regarding Claim 4, Iwasaki et al. describes the reconfigurable integrated circuit (603) connecting two or more electric wires (604) are connected to a single I/O device (at 603).

9. Regarding Claim 7, Iwasaki et al. describes a number of electronic devices (603) connected to the group of electric wires (604).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwasaki et al. in view of US Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0032984 to Uchida.

Art Unit: 2874

12. Iwasaki et al. describes a photonic circuit board, as discussed above. Iwasaki et al. does not specifically describe the I/O devices as a photonic ball ICs. Uchida describes a photonic ball IC. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the photonic ball IC of Uchida in the circuit device of Iwasaki et al. The motivation for doing so would have been to allow more densely located components of the system.

Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's arguments filed October 6, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the prior art reference does not describe a mediating device. The examiner directs the Applicant to paragraph 3 of the current Office Action discusses the inherency of such a mediating device in the teachings of Iwasaki et al.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

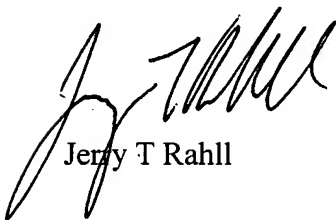
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2874

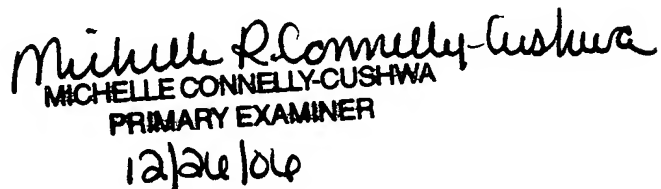
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerry T. Rahlh whose telephone number is (571) 272-2356. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (8:30-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rodney Bovernick can be reached on (571) 272-2344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Jerry T Rahlh



MICHELLE CONNELLY-CUSHWA
PRIMARY EXAMINER
12/26/06